

**RALEIGH TRANSIT AUTHORITY  
JANUARY 10, 2013  
MINUTES**

The Raleigh Transit Authority met on Thursday, January 10, 2013 at 3:30 p.m., in the City Council Chamber, Room 201 of the Municipal Building, Raleigh, N. C. with the following present:

Chairman Joseph Springer, presiding (portion of meeting)  
Gerry Cohen  
Jason Horne  
Roger Kosak  
Regina Price  
Craig Ralph  
Les Seitz  
Jane Thurman  
Uel Whitsett

Staff present: David Eatman, Mike Kennon, Scott McClellan

Chairman Springer called the meeting to order with discussion and actions taken as shown:

**AGENDA – APPROVED AS AMENDED**

Mr. Eatman reported there would be 2 add-on items relating to Title VI Service Equity Analysis documents and discussion of fare research. Without objection, the agenda was approved as amended.

**ACTION ITEMS**

**MINUTES – DECEMBER 13, 2012 – APPROVED AS PRESENTED**

Members received in their packets a copy of the December 13, 2012 minutes. Mr. Kosak moved approval of the minutes as presented. His motion was seconded by Mr. Seitz, unanimously passed. Chairman Springer ruled the motion adopted.

**US 1 COUNCIL OF PLANNING MOU – REFERRED TO FINANCE COMMITTEE**

Mr. Eatman reported the US 1 Council of planning has added a new member jurisdiction. It is requested that the authority execute the MOU and authorize the Chairman to sign the document. Members received a copy of the MOU included in their agenda packets. Mr. Eatman advised members this body signed the document done previously. There is a US1 planning body that looks at all major decisions regarding that corridor. He

explained this board is appointed by the City Council and handles planning functions through the City Charter. He noted, as an example, if we do a transit corridor study in the Capital Boulevard area, the US1 planning body would have to be informed to be sure we coordinate with other areas. Mr. Eatman noted the US1 planning body has been meeting for 5 years and the MPO acts as oversight for the planning effort. Mr. Ralph indicated he would like to review this further. He requested information about expiration of terms of members of the US1 planning board. Mr. Eatman indicated he represents CAT on the planning body and brings forward any transit related activities to that body for their consideration and coordination.

Mr. Ralph moved referral of this item to the Finance Committee for further review. His motion was seconded by Mr. Horne, unanimously passed. Chairman Springer ruled the motion adopted.

## **TITLE VI SERVICE EQUITY ANALYSIS – RECEIPT OF DOCUMENT ACKNOWLEDGED**

Mr. Eatman explained a Title VI Service Equity Analysis was just completed which is federally required. This item does not require adoption but the authority must acknowledge receipt of the document. He explained if service is changed, it should not impact minority or low income populations greater than the population at large. Members received a copy of the document that was reviewed by Mr. Eatman. He referred to the conclusions that indicated the analysis supports the plan for updates to CAT services and implementation of the FY 2013-2014 recommendations from the 2012 CAT Short Range Transit Development Plan will provide transit options that benefit the users and CAT. Mr. Eatman explained every single route was changed in some way. The only route in question related to holiday service on Saturday and Sunday. Mr. Eatman indicated at this time we would not move forward with phase 1 of holiday service which has more cost impact than anticipated. These changes will move forward with phase 2 changes. Because of additional service on MLK Day, negative impact is negated. He indicated it is federal regulation that the board acknowledge receipt of the document. Mr. Eatman explained Mr. Vinson develops the Title VI Program that must be recertified every 3 years. The last certification was done 6 weeks ago. This has to be done each time route or service changes that are significant are made. This document covers phases 1 and 2 and includes everything done between now and January 1, 2014. If additional funding is received in FY 2014, any changes made as a result would have to go through this analysis. Mr. Eatman indicated he may bring before the appropriate committee a review of the policy relating to what major route service change is. Staff considers a significant change as something like 25% change.

Mr. Ralph moved that the authority receive this document. His motion was seconded by Mr. Kosak, unanimously passed. Chairman Springer ruled the motion adopted.

## **FARE COMPARISON – REFERRED TO ROUTE AND FINANCE COMMITTEES**

Mr. Eatman provided a handout of peer local fare comparisons noting this is a fare analysis of areas staff considers close to ours and have things in common, i.e. general budget or other factors. The CAT fare is \$1.00 and \$2.00 for a day pass. Winston-Salem; Lexington, KY and Charleston, WV still have \$1.00 fares. A majority of services have gone to \$1.50 with some as high as \$2.50. Mr. Eatman indicated his fear is we are under valuing our service and not keeping pace with inflation. If the \$1.00 fare is maintained much longer, we would be looking at a 75% increase in fare just to catch up with the median fare of peer systems. Mr. Eatman stated he would rather make logical fare increases over time rather than being backed into a corner in the future and having to make a large fare increase at one time. Nothing would be done unless all partners in the region are willing to move forward with this as well since there is agreement to keep a regional fare structure. He indicated it is important to understand exactly where we are and our options. He indicated he would like to review this over the next 6-8 months noting he is looking at possibly doing something 12 months from now.

Mr. Ralph indicated he would like to see this reviewed. Mr. Cohen agreed it would be appropriate to study this and put all information together. He stated if an increase is proposed, he would suggest that the City Council step it up over time, i.e. 25 cents in 1 year, etc. and would hope the money is all plowed into increasing service.

Mr. Seitz indicated the CAT fares are low and to avoid a large increase, there could be a 10 or 15 cent increase per year so everyone would know it is going up every year. He indicated the point is there is inflation.

In response to a question from Mr. Horne, Mr. Eatman indicated the current \$1.00 fare was implemented on January 2, 2007 and was 50 cents before that. Mr. Eatman stressed this would not be done in a vacuum but would be a regional effort. Mr. Horne questioned if there was any impact on ridership when the rates were changed previously with Mr. Eatman responding generally there will be a reduction in ridership in the beginning but rebounds in a 12-18 month period. Mr. Eatman indicated a 25 cent increase would create over \$300,000 in additional revenue and that would fund 1 single route running all year, every day. Mr. Cohen stated he would like to know the highest priorities that money could be used for. Mr. Eatman explained the funds go into the General Fund unless we go to the City Council showing a financing plan for a possible budget appropriation increase.

Following discussion, Chairman Springer referred the item to the Route and Finance Committees for further study.

## **INFORMATION ITEMS**

### **PHASE I ROUTE CHANGES – INFORMATION RECEIVED**

Mr. Eatman reported this Sunday a number of route changes will be implemented. He provided members with a memo providing a general update of where we are with route changes and other changes going on that will go to the City Council. He thanked Ms. Pennell for her work in putting the schedules together and complimented her on the quality of the timetables. He indicated Mr. Hair and Ms. Molin have checked 800 bus stops of the 1500 included in phase 1 and will finish the last ones by this weekend. He reported all the bus stops look great noting the signs are on a square pole with a cap. Signage providing information on routes had to be changed. Fare boxes had to be reprogrammed as well.

This report was received as information.

### **DOWNTOWN BUS FACILITIES MASTER PLAN, PHASE I & II – INFORMATION RECEIVED**

Mr. Eatman provided an update on the Moore Square Station improvements and information regarding the Union Station Multi-Modal Bus Facility Feasibility Study. Qualifications have been received from firms for the Downtown Bus Facility Master Plan for redesign of Moore Square Station putting into context all needs as we transition into a bus facility in the new Union Station. Mr. Eatman indicated Union Station is the foundation of getting the whole multi-modal center started noting the bus component will be important. He explained to secure federal funds planning steps must take place and this exercise will determine space needs for busses, employees and riders. A land survey must be done to determine space feasibility for such a facility. He reviewed environmental documentation required. Moore Square construction is something needed to kick off quickly and to also determine what will be done at Union Station as well. He indicated this will not be a small task and will be a challenge to determine how to move both facilities forward in a positive way. He hoped to have a consultant selected this month and move forward with contract execution in February. Information will be brought to the authority at that time.

### **FINANCE COMMITTEE – REPORT**

Mr. Kosak indicated the Finance Committee had not met since the December RTA meeting. He reviewed the status of the pending items.

### **MARKETING COMMITTEE – REPORT**

Ms. Thurman reported the Marketing Committee had not met since the December RTA meeting. The next committee meeting will be held Friday, January 18 at 12:00 p.m.

## **ROUTE COMMITTEE – REPORT**

Mr. Ralph reported the Route Committee will meet on January 7, 2013.

Mr. Ralph referred to the request from Harris Teeter located on Creedmoor Road requesting an expansion of service. He reported staff was able to negotiate on extended service including a 9:15 p.m. run from Crabtree to Towne North Shopping Center. Between that and new service alignment, the needs of those requesting the service will be met. This would add 2 more runs to Route 4. Mr. Ralph referred to complaints on Sierra Drive and indicated changes were made to take care of this issue.

Mr. Ralph moved approval of the changes and the additional services to Creedmoor Road. His motion was seconded by Ms. Price, unanimously passed. Chairman Springer ruled the motion adopted.

## **STAFF REPORTS – RECEIVED**

Members received in their agenda packets the following staff reports:

1. Statement of Income and Loss (November 2012)
2. Operating Statistics (November 2012)
3. Evaluation by Route (November 2012)
4. Ridership by Time of Day (November 2012)
5. Variance Analysis (November 2012)
6. Go PASS Ridership Summary (November 2012)
7. Go PASS Ridership by Agency (November 2012)
8. Accessible Raleigh Transportation Summary (November 2012)

Mr. Eatman reported ridership is still up noting anything in the 6% - 7% range shows incredibly strong growth.

Mr. Ralph questioned who maintains the facilities at Crabtree. Mr. Eatman indicated this is the property owner's responsibility but staff has offered to repair any problem and had been in touch with Crabtree representatives. Staff has also talked to street maintenance relating to an alternate location. Repair will involve removing asphalt and it will take 2-3 days to repair. Coordination will have to take place with the mall while the work is being done. As this moves forward, staff will advise the authority.

## **CONCLUDING REMARKS – RECEIVED**

Mr. Ralph indicated the Wolfline busses are nice. He further urged all members to attend the February 5 Council budget hearing to let them know more funding is needed for CAT.

Ms. Thurman and Mr. Seitz thanked staff for their hard work.

Mr. Kosak thanked staff and indicated people in North Raleigh appreciate the changes made for Creedmoor Road businesses. He indicated the managers and employees were pleased to be able to get their employees to Crabtree.

Mr. Cohen hoped with the increase in service headways will increase and wanted to make sure people know in order to maximize bringing in new riders.

Mr. Whitsett hoped there is a smooth roll out of the route changes and hoped passengers are ready for the new routes.

Mr. Horne thanked staff for their work and stated he is intrigued about the fare study.

Mr. Eatman provided members with an organizational and committee structure and membership handout.

Chairman Springer thanked staff for their work and indicated he is looking forward to a good year.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 4:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Brenda Hunt